

Disposition of Remains Report: Montevideo

May 31, 2018

Part I. Name of Country: **URUGUAY**

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

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Uruguay Travel Advisory:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/uruguay.html/>

Register with the U.S. Embassy:

<http://step.state.gov/step/>

Part III. Profile of Religions of Uruguay and Religious Services available to visitors.

Country Profile: Visit the State Department's website "Fact Sheet: Uruguay"

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>

Religions: Uruguay's population is mostly Roman Catholic. Other religions represented in Uruguay include Jewish, Baptist, Mormon, Adventist, Protestant and Anglican. There are also a large percentage of agnostics in the country.

Religious Activities for Visitors: English language services are available at certain religious facilities in Montevideo.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Uruguay:

Major Mortuaries used by U.S. Citizens:

Rogelio Martinelli S.A.

Canelones 1450

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Tel. +(598 2) 908 7721-25

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Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

Disposition of Remains (general):

Death is a time of crisis for one's family and friends no matter where it takes place. The following are general guidelines for deaths that occur in Uruguay. Relatives can contact the Consular Section at U.S. Embassy Montevideo directly via email at MontevideoACS@state.gov.

Any death of a U.S. Citizen should be reported immediately to the Embassy. Once we hear a U.S. citizen has passed away in Uruguay, we must determine who is the next of kin and then carry out the wishes of the deceased and next of kin to the best of our ability in accordance with local law. The next of kin or another person responsible for making the funeral arrangements should contact a suitable funeral home. Costs of services can be arranged by relatives or friends directly with the chosen funeral home.

The Consular Section of U.S. Embassy Montevideo will prepare a Consular Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad for any U.S. citizen who dies in Uruguay. This report is based on the official death report issued by Uruguayan authorities. It usually takes about 10 days to obtain the official death report issued by local authorities. Original certified copies of the Consular Report of Death Abroad will be provided or mailed to the next of kin. Due to a recent change in local law, Uruguayan authorities do not list an individual's cause of death on the official local death report.

In cases where the death occurred due to an accident or suspicious circumstances, an autopsy may be required by Uruguayan authorities. The main morgue of the country is located in Montevideo. Remains are generally transferred to the Montevideo morgue for the autopsy. The Ministry of Interior will then request specific documentation and information related to the deceased.

Local authorities responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians.

The local "Intendencia" (Town Hall) is the entity responsible for the licensing of funeral directors and morticians. Uruguay is divided into 19 Departments, each with its own Town Hall.

www.montevideo.gub.uy/tramites-y-tributos/sociedad-y-salud/funebre-y-necropolis

(1) **Maximum Period Before Burial of Remains:** There is no maximum period. As long as the funeral home has the certificate of death issued by the assisting medical doctor, remains can be buried.

(2) **Embalming:** Embalming is not done in Uruguay. A conservation process is done instead to preserve remains for services and/or transportation.

(3) **Cremation:** Cremation is permitted by national law. In Uruguay there are two public crematories and several private ones. Timing and costs do vary between public or private services. Local law states that consent from next of kin is necessary in order to proceed with the cremation upon presentation of legal documents proving the relationship with the deceased. Arrangements for cremation are usually handed by the chosen local funeral home.

(4) **Caskets and Containers:** Caskets and urns are available locally. They are prepared for international regulations and meet the requirements for shipment out of the country. Metal caskets are hermetically sealed. The forensic doctor issues a note stating that the deceased person does not carry any infectious disease. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will then validate the document.

(5) **Exportation of Human Remains/Ashes:** If the desire of the family is to repatriate the ashes or remains of the deceased then the Consular Section of U.S. Embassy Montevideo will issue a Consular Mortuary Certificate with the assistance of the chosen funeral home. A funeral home representative will attest in front of a Consular Officer that the remains belong to the deceased. Transportation overseas is done via commercial flights. Currently only American Airlines flies daily directly to and from Miami. There are other international airlines that fly to the U.S., but with connecting flights within Latin America.

The following documents are required to export human remains or ashes:

- a) Official Uruguayan Death Certificate and Consular Report of Death Abroad
- b) Authorization from the Department of Health
- c) Affidavit of person who witnessed the packing of the remains or ashes.

These documents must be presented at the U.S. port of entry. There is no associated cost if the deceased person was a U.S. citizen.

When transporting human ashes to the country of origin, the next of kin may be able to carry the container with the ashes with the above mentioned documents as personal luggage. The next of kin may also be able to send the ashes

independently via courier with an approximate cost of USD 1,200 (depending on the local exchange rate).

(6) Costs:

Transportation of human remains in a casket from Montevideo to Los Angeles, Chicago and New York (estimates provided by a local customs dispatcher (*amounts based on the exchange rate of May 22, 2018: USD1.00 = 31.45 Uruguayan pesos*) are as follows:

228 Kgs (503 lbs) and more	USD 1825.00
227 Kgs (501 lbs) and less	USD 1425.00
Transportation of ashes up to 34 kgs (75 lbs)	USD 220.00
Issuance of Air Way Bill in all cases	USD 50.00

Approximate funeral costs within Uruguay range anywhere from USD 5,500.00 to USD 7,000.00. These prices vary between businesses and may or may not include the cost of tax. Various packages are available depending on the needs and desires of the deceased and next of kin. Options include, but are not limited to coffins, urns, burials, and processions.

Cremation fees, generally included in the funeral service can range from USD 603.00 if done at public crematory to USD 1,090.00 at a private crematory. Prices may vary depending the local exchange rate.

(7) Exhumation: Remains can be disinterred after two years. Private funeral homes offer services related to exhumation requests. U.S. Embassy Montevideo suggests individuals who wish to exhume remains contact one of the funeral homes listed above.